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THE PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COMPUTER APPLIED
TRAINING SOCIETY
NEWS LETTER
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VOLUME 10 ** NUMBER 4
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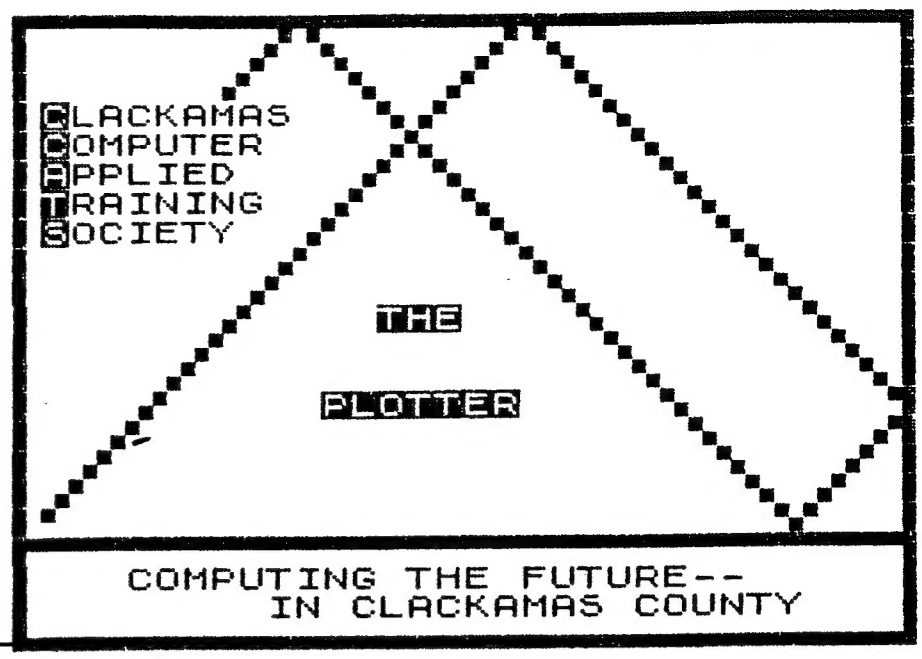
APRIL 1992



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ALICE DUNLOP

MEETING

The APRIL meeting will be:

on: FRI., APRIL 10 1992

MEETING open at: 7:00 P.M.
in: BARLOW HALL, ROOM #112
CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MOLALLA AVE. OREGON CITY

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MARCH MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jack Armstrong at 7:40 PM at Barlow Hall. Six members and 2 guests were present.

Under old business, the problem of providing Rod Gowen proper text material for The Best Of The Plotter seems to depend on saving material as ASCII files. Also this material should be in 32 column format as he will do the printing in the correct width. Tasword will not decrease line length but can increase.

Dick Wagner volunteered to copy programs that have graphic characters as he has a copy of Jack Dohany's Gypsy program that provides for printing graphics on a large printer with satisfactory results. As TS 1000 programs will run on a 2068 if there are no CODE problems, this also gives an opportunity to make test runs.

Rod needs separate disks for each type of computer program/article to keep things in logical order. There will be separate sections in the book for each computer type. Where one program can be used on more than one computer it will be so noted in the index.

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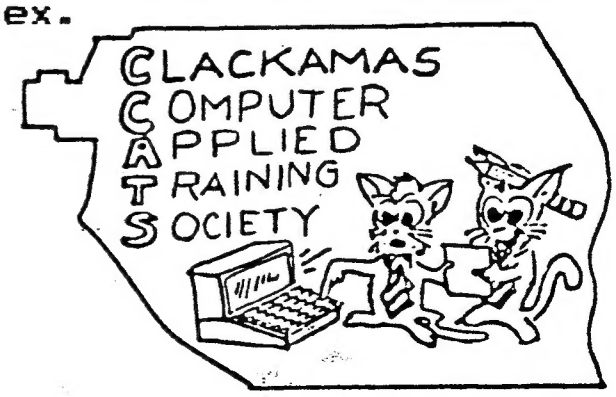

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The separators for each computer type were discussed, based on some examples. Final designs seem to settled upon.

There was some discussion of bubble jet printer quality. Rod feels that his 24 pin printer will be satisfactory in quality.

The method of obtaining copyright protection was discussed. It seems that for the price this would be a good feature.

A new matter was brought up concering our logo. When we changed the name of the organization it also was changed on the logo. Rod suggested that both the old and the new designs be used on one page.

The concensus of opinion was that we not spend the money for printing a dedication page as it is self evident that the book is dedicated to all those who still use the Timex Sinclair equipment.

Jack suggested that we look into the cost of laser printing to see if we can afford this high quality work. There is a concern in the Tigard area that does such printing.

Under new business, Jack gave a run down on the use of KEY FORM DESIGNER at the print shop where he works. He had some examples of form layout he has worked with.

Merlin Raymond brought members up to date on pirated programs used by some Portland area BBS operators. It appears that these operators have pulled their operations and have shut down their bulletin boards due to the "exposure".

Bill Dunlop discussed the demise of another TS supplier, Larry Zunk, in Texas. Larry is closing out his remaining stock. See the article in the this issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 so guest Kelly Wagner could present information on computer systems in his machine shop.

Dick F. Wagner
Secretary

NEWS FROM TEXAS

I.B.M. has claimed annother fine Sinclair programmer. Larry Zunk is producing IBM shareware and will no longer be introducing new Timex related items. He will continue to sell his existing stock of hardware items and will offer his software "as long as the orders keep coming in."

Some of the hardware items Larry has available include:

WEATHER STATION
  a very comprehensive data acquisition system!

REAL TIME CLOCK
  a cart. port board (sorry, not LarKen compatable)

32K RAM EXPANSION
  expands the upper half of the dock OR the exrom bank.

SOUSE
  looks like a "mouse" works like a joystick.

His software includes:

CADZ-PC
  for pc boards and a lot more.

ZEBU
  5360 bytes of powerful extras with 38 new functions.

TASWORD 256K
  for LarKen ramdisk users this one will hold and use FIVE 300 line documents at ONCE!

OS DRAW
  a drawing program that uses the Zebra OS64 and the A&J.

If you want more information write Larry at his NEW ADDRESS:

Zunk Custom Electronics
110 Big Bend Blvd
Waxahachie TX 75165

Bill Dunlop, CCATS member, has ZEBU and Tasword256 available for demos and some additional information on the other items.

BITS & BYTES

by: Rod Gowen

In this column I try to bring you the latest and complete information and news available to me regarding the world of TS computing. One way that I can accomplish this is if I have the support of you, the reader, in collecting news that may be of interest to other readers. If you have any news, rumors or other tidbits of information that fits this description, why not send it along? We will be watching!

2068 SLIDESHOW NOW AVAILABLE---

From RMG. This unique disk is the creation of Michael Di Rienzo of PIX-FX and MIKE'S NOTEBOOK fame. There are 24 pictures in the disk which runs automatically. RMG says that the Larken disk in 40 track/2 sided format will be available for the nominal cost of $7.50 post-paid. This is to be the last offering from Mr. Di Rienzo. If any of you are interested, call or write RMG.

MEMBERSHIP DROPS!-

This probably does not come as a big surprise to anyone in this time of dwindling interest in our old friend, the T/S computers. If my figures are correct, we lost 2 or 3 of our regular members this year. We have, however, picked up 1 or 2 from outside our local area as well as continuing to gain in the subscrip- tion department. As long as this keeps up we can continue to publish THE PLOTTER on a monthly basis. Now all we need is to get a few of you "readers" to come up with a little input in the form of an article or something. The money may be available to pay for the newsletter, but without material, the newsletter will fold just as quickly! We WILL NOT ACCEPT the excuse of "NO TIME"! Anyone should be able to put together a 1 column or 1/2 column piece in less than 1/2 hour! C'MON! Let's hear from you!

"THE BEST OF"-PROJECT:

The project continues--- At the March meeting some sample covers were looked over along with some cover pages and section separators. What we hope will be the final samples will be at the April meeting. Jack Armstrong along with Bill and Alice Dunlop are busily entering the material to be printed. Dick Wagner has worked out a method to print the program listings from both the 1000 and the 2068 on the 2068. It is looking more and more as though the book will be in the neighborhood of 90-100 pages.

As far as interest in this book, RMG has now had over 10 calls expressing intentions to purchase the book as soon as it is available. At the current rate of call and letters and the rate at which we are getting the book done, we will have about 25 orders as soon as it is ready!

NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE-

I have had a LOT of reading to do in the last few weeks. It seems as though the exchange newsletters pile up rather quickly if I don't get to them right away! I have scanned and read over 30 newsletters in 2 weeks. We have lost a couple and gained some new ones over the past year or so. I really cannot see any newsletter folding for "lack of news" as some may say. I see a real wealth of information that NEEDS to be passed on to our own group members and the readers of THE PLOTTER who may not have access to these other fine newsletters.

A couple of the best newsletters that come in on a regular basis, be it monthly or bi-monthly, are: SINC-LINK from the TORONTO USERS CLUB and L.I.S.T. from the LONG ISLAND, NY group. I recommend that anyone who wants to see the TS community continue subscribe to as many of the existing newsletters as they can possibly afford!

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On this note, I have a LATE FLASH!--The current issue of ZXir Clive Alive! newsletter just arrived! This is the TSNUG newsletter. I will read my copy and report on it next time. The club copy will be added to the library. I sincerely hope that YOU have joined and are receiving your own copy!

That's if for now!
See you next time. . .

IN REVIEW

Meaningfull excerpts from the March issue of Silicon valley Gazette, the Journal of the Portland PC User Group.

From the review of many books on QuickBASIC, by Richard Vanny, two books did not leave him impressed, Learning to Use QuickBASIC and PROGRAMMING IN BASIC, both from Microsoft Corp. His comments--Good News: It comes free with the software. Bad news--It comes free with the software.

Richard Hovey's column, The Novice View (the 36th consecutive column), under Oldies but Goodies: he looked back through some old issues and spotted this one--"Know Thy Vendor" reported on the minister who moonlighted selling computers with pirated software including a computer version of The Good Book.

Under more of the same--
Some things haven't changed since my first column 3 years ago. I still feel like a lost sheep. It's not that I haven't learned anything but hardware and software continue to change quickly and become more complicated with each improvement. Many of us, unless we are incredibly good at certain kind of thinking, or willing to dedicate most of our time to these machines, remain perpetual novices.

Dick Wagner

WHY? -

OWN A COMPUTER?

by: Rod Gowen

Strange question from one of the users of computers who has been using them the longest in our group? Not really! I think that those of us who own and want to own a computer must have had some idea of just what we wanted from the relationship long before we took the big step. For some, I am sure, it was the novelty of the thing. For those of us who have been owning and using these temperamental "beasts" for some time now, novelty might have been the original draw, but after a short time (or maybe a long time) we come to depend on the computer for various reasons. Perhaps, like me, some started it as a hobby and then made it an integral part of their business. Perhaps some are still using it as a hobby. Some are using it for many of the dreary financial tasks of everyday personal life in and around the home. All of these are, in my opinion, valid reasons for having a computer in the home or office.

Now, to the point of my little piece. There are, it seems, quite a few folks out there who own (and buy software and hardware for) a computer. WHY?? It is almost a daily occurrence for me to go to my mailbox and bring in the mail only to find one or more letters and/or orders from a "long-time" T/S or other computer owner that is HAND WRITTEN! That's not the worst of it! It seems that, for the most part, these are the very folks that the computer would help the most! Their handwriting is usually very hard to decipher and sometimes is written on whatever is handy! I have received orders on brown paper bags, grocery store receipts, recipe cards, business cards, greeting cards, post-its and even old envelopes! WHY!?

If you own a computer, is it too much to expect that you can type on

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Continued from page 4
the keyboard and print your letter or order? Even the output of a 2040 or other thermal printer is more acceptable than handwritten media. I know that if one of these folks wanted to get something published in a newsletter or magazine and the editor received such an item in less than legible form, it would be rejected out or hand! The editor's job description does NOT include decoding and translation of hieroglyphics! I am here to say that my job is made MUCH harder by these things as well. The problem is compounded by the fact that I am legally blind and must use a closed circuit TV "reading" machine to allow me to read AT ALL!

I will not refuse these orders nor will I return them. I will decipher them somehow and go on. I know that this article will probably NOT change the habits of John Q. Public, whether they own a computer or not. It just seems to me that, if you own a computer and use it for games or other forms of entertainment only, it is sad.

A COMPUTER IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE!

DUPLICATING TS 1000 GRAPHIC SYMBOLS

Being involved in the user group's publication, THE BEST OF THE PLOTTER, a method was devised to easily print out listings for the ZX 81, TS 1000, TS 1500, and 2068 on a large printer. This was mentioned in the last newsletter. Next, it was necessary to duplicate the graphic symbols used on the first 3 computers. As it turns out, it appears that only 6 of the symbols need to be duplicated as the others are available on the 2068 computer.

Character CODES 8, 9, 10, 136, 137, and 138 that are assigned to the TS 100, etc., are easily duplicated with UDG keys. In the same order, keys B, c, D, A, E, and F are assigned to those graphic symbols. Check your TS 1000 manual for these characters. The following program will produce the 6 characters to make it easy to copy TS 1000 programs that have graphic characters.

Using the TS 1000 graphic characters as used in some programs makes it possible for the user to go back and try some of those TS 1000 programs on the 2068 computer.

If the reader will recall the use of UDG characters, these assigned keys will retain the characters until the computer is powered down. Save the program so it can be entered before starting a program listing. Once it is run, just NEW the computer to delete the program. Those 6 keys will retain the new graphic characters for programming. Be sure to use Cap Shift 9 and the desired key (A to F).

Dick Wagner

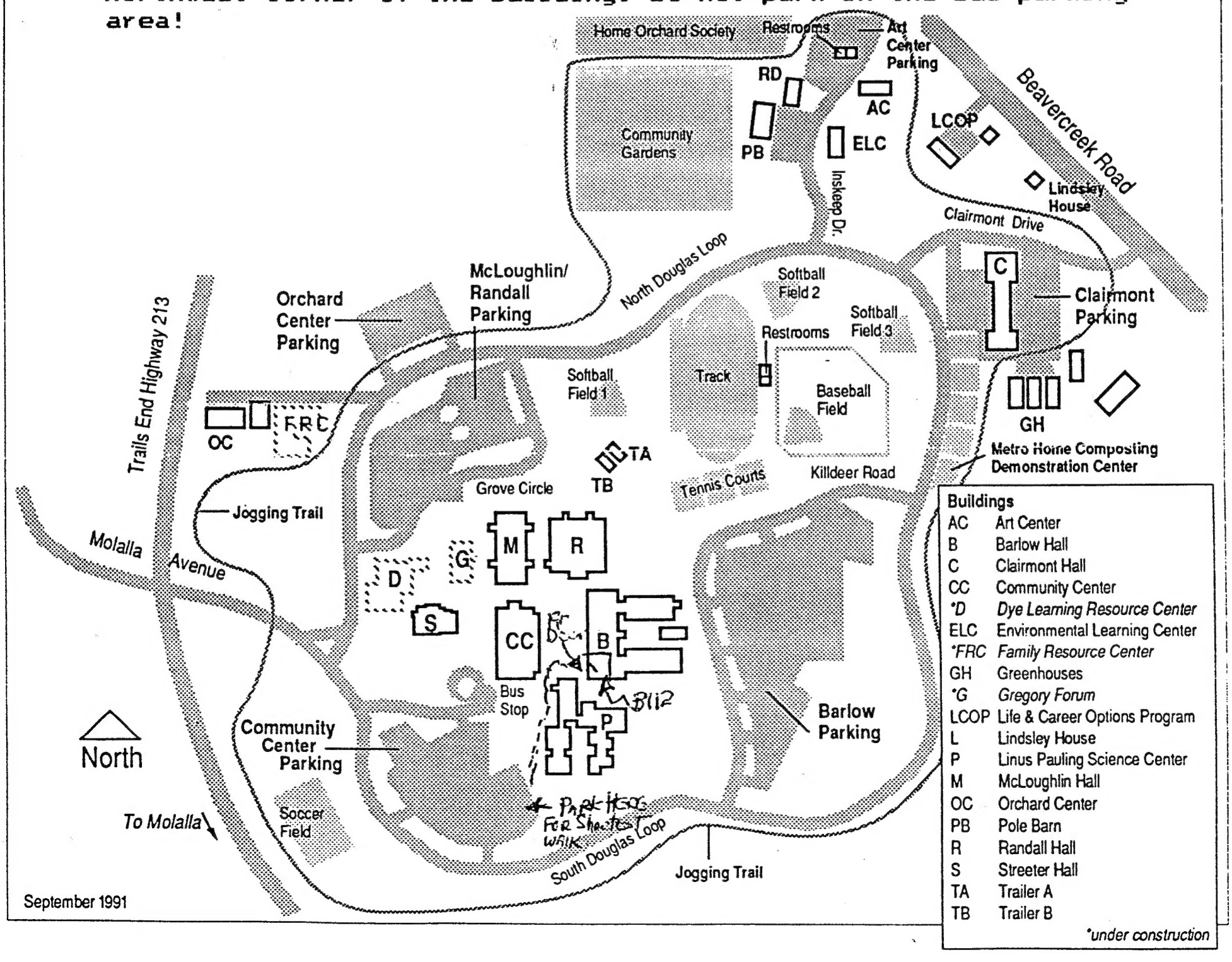
```
100 FOR N=65368 TO 65368+47
110 READ A
120 POKE N,A
130 NEXT N
140 PRINT CS9;"A"
150 PRINT CS9;"B"
160 PRINT CS9;"C"
170 PRINT CS9;"D"
180 PRINT CS9;"E"
190 PRINT CS9;"F"
200 DATA 85,170,85,170,85,170,8
5,170
210 DATA 170,85,170,85,170,85,1
70,85
220 DATA 0,0,0,0,170,85,170,85
230 DATA 170,85,170,85,0,0,0,0
240 DATA 255,255,255,255,85,170
,85,170
250 DATA 85,170,85,170,255,255,
255,255
1000 REM after RUN graphic keys
A, B, C, D, E, and F are set in
their new graphic forms. Use NEW
 to delete the program, leaving
the 6 keys properly coded.
1010 REM just use CS9 with the a
ppropriate key. If you need a re
minder of the character, in dire
ct mode just key in CS9 and the
lettered key to display the char
acter.
1020 REM in order to LLIST the p
rogram for printing, non-graphic
 letters were used in the progra
m after testing it.
```

Campus Map

MEETING PARKING

Members not acquainted with the Clackamas Community College buildings and parking areas found that our first guidance for parking was flawed and left a lot to be desired. We are reprinting the college campus map, showing the prefered parking area within the closest walking distance to our meeting room #B112.

The Community Center Parking is the nearest to Barlow Hall Room #112 located in the southwest corner of the building. There are various paths to follow so take the one close to Linus Pauling Science Center as marked on the map. This takes you around the northwest corner of the building. Do not park in the bus parking area!



Buildings

AC	Art Center
B	Barlow Hall
C	Clairmont Hall
CC	Community Center
*D	*Dye Learning Resource Center*
ELC	Environmental Learning Center
*FRC	*Family Resource Center*
GH	Greenhouses
*G	*Gregory Forum*
LCOP	Life & Career Options Program
L	Lindsley House
P	Linus Pauling Science Center
M	McLoughlin Hall
OC	Orchard Center
PB	Pole Barn
R	Randall Hall
S	Streeter Hall
TA	Trailer A
TB	Trailer B

*under construction

NUMBERS, LARGE AND SMALL

Our computers thrive on numbers, but the languages we often work with have limits. In GWBASIC (Microsoft) the uper limit is reported to be +-1701412000000000000000000000000000000 which is +- 1701412 with 32 zeros, or put another way (the computer way) +-1.701412*10*power of 38 (1.701412*10^38) or 1.701412E38. Sinclair BASIC seems to limit at about 1.7014059E38 where the number to the right of E is the exponent.

Single precission floating point numbers have limits based on the computer language. Floating point arithmetic is a system where the digits are kept separate, such as the mantissa and the decimal point.

Try this short program to display some of these limits

```
10 LET X=2^32-48
20 LET Y=2^32-47
30 PRINT X;"  ";Y
```

The display should be 4,294,967,200 which is printed by the computer as 4.2949672E9 and 4.2949673E9. If the computer could display the complete last number it would end with 300. Remember that E is the number of places to the right of the decimal point.

I recall a draftsman in my department who used to stew about rounding off of numbers by his calculator as he considered that it should give him the correct answer. It was worse when I made a calculation with my calculator and the answer may not be exactly the same as his. There has to be a limit with our computers. It is interesting to try to hit the limits as set by the computer system.

For the person who likes to experiment or test, try printing the result of 2.0110326^126 and then try increasing and decreasing the last 6 to squeeze the highest number out of the system. The limit of 7 digits after the decimal point restricts dividing the 6 into decimals such as 61.

HERE AND THERE

Noted in the front of the book, THE PC CONFIGURATION HANDBOOK authored by John Woram, the dedication was to his wife? He very neatly put is thus:

To Christina Marie,
who has her own definition
of IBM compatability.

As my wife said, on pointing this out to her, "Oh yes!"

My recently received copy of PCNOVICE magazine (April issue) carries a very interesting article on dot matrix printers. This article explains the position that EPSON has had in the development of printers for PCs. Their start was with the development of a pin type printer for printing the winning times at the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo. In 1986 Epson America opened a plant near Portland for producing printer hardware mainly for sale in the US.

Epson America is a branch of Seiko with a minimum of Japanese Nationals involved in Epson America. To further your education, the name Epson was derived from the name of the original print head, EP-101. As more products were developed in the early days, and many were based on the technology of the EP-101, the name Epson means exactly that, son of EP.

Interestingly, Epson is a branch of Seiko (Suwa Seikosha) which is under the parent company owned by the Hattori family. Seiko means precission in Japanese. This name was used for their Seiko brand of precission watches.

Patents as early as 1937 covered the concept of a moving printhead, the device that carries the mechanics of moving pins to produce an image on paper. The current systems use a series of very small pins that are spring loaded to force them against the ink ribbon in a defined pattern. Electromagnets pull the pins back. The elctronics built into the printer controls these magnets.

From the Softkey catalog of MSDOS programs

The SoftKey Story

Softkey selects the leading brand names products and private labels them in its paperback series at the lowest possible price. You get the top selling premium brands repackaged under the SoftKey name. You save an average of 71% off the original brand name for exactly the same product. All SoftKey changes is the name...and the price.

And more---

SoftKey Software Products Inc.
908 Niagra Falls Blvd.
North Tonawanda, N.Y. 14120-2060

-NOTICE-

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